

**Sample School District Policy
Regarding the Specification and Use of
Environmentally Preferable Bio-Based Cleaning Products**

Be it resolved that the Board of Education, recognizing the importance of the safety and health of the district's students, teachers and staff, does hereby adopt the following policy regarding products used to clean and maintain school facilities within the district.

Background and Intent

Many chemicals commonly found in institutional cleaning and maintenance products pose significant and unnecessary health risks for children, as well as teachers and staff. Exposure to some of these chemicals has been associated with an increased incidence of asthma, allergies, certain types of cancer, neurological disorders, endocrine disruption, chemical sensitivity and kidney or liver damage. When released into the environment, cleaning chemicals can contaminate water sources or be acutely toxic to marine life. The Board believes it is not necessary to jeopardize the health and safety of our students, teachers and staff, or to pollute our environment, when many less toxic or non-toxic alternatives are available.

Therefore the intent of this policy is to reduce student, teacher and staff exposure to these chemicals and reduce environmental pollution by stipulating the exclusive procurement and use of bio-based cleaning products that ensure the highest levels of safety, efficacy and economy.

Procurement

Only products that meet or exceed the ChildSafe Guidelines for Green Cleaning Products, attached hereto, shall be purchased for use in school facilities. This shall include general purpose cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants, and floor care products. When there is no product available to complete a cleaning or maintenance task that meets the guidelines in this policy, the least toxic alternative with the lowest VOC level should be purchased.

Implementation Guidelines

1. All facilities cleaning and maintenance staff shall be instructed in the proper use of these products to maximize their efficacy. Special training for cleaning when there is a disease outbreak shall be a part of the training program.
2. All classroom teachers shall be provided with approved cleaning products for

use when necessary, and shall be given instruction in their proper use.

3. No parent, teacher or staff member may bring into a school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect.

4. Disinfectant products shall be used only for body fluid spills or in areas where there is a high potential for direct contact with body fluids or when a public health concern requires their use. These products contain registered pesticides and should never be used for general cleaning purposes or when children are present.

5. Floor stripping and finishing products shall only be used when facilities are not in use (vacation breaks) or over long weekends, when buildings can be properly ventilated before children, teachers and staff return. Even environmentally friendly, bio-based products designed for this use typically contain higher levels of volatile ingredients.

Effective Date and Notice

This policy shall take effect on _____

The district shall undertake to inform all parents, teachers and staff of the contents of this policy and the reasons for its adoption. All custodial staff shall be informed of the policy and trained in the use of “green” cleaning products. The district shall inform all vendors of this policy in writing and it shall be referenced in all new contracts and service agreements. Existing stocks of non-complying products shall be used up in areas of the district that are not utilized by children or disposed of as directed by the Director of Facilities.

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This sample policy was developed by Grassroots Environmental Education, a science-based non-profit organization. The policy is part of the EPA award-winning ChildSafe School program. More information is available at www.TheChildSafeSchool.org.

